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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
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Governor Lemanu Responds to the Hawaii National Guard Academy Issue

Upon Governor Lemanu's arrival in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 12, 2023, he requested to meet with Governor Greene of the state of Hawaii and Major General (MG) Kenneth Hara of the Department of Defense on Monday to discuss the concerns in the recruiting process and work on solutions for the students that are interested in the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy. Governor Lemanu was able to get on call with MG Hara on February 13, 2023 in the afternoon. MG Hara is the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense. He is also the Deputy of Staff, Army National Guard, Operations G3, Eighth United States Army Korea, Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Since the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) has made contact with the parents and agreed to return the students home, Governor Lemanu honored the arrangements for the students to return and graduate from their respective high schools with a clear pathway of joining the military or look into attending college. In the meantime, Governor Lemanu and MG Hara are working together to ensure that there is a smooth process in the successful recruitment of students from American Samoa that are U.S. Nationals to participate in the youth program. The parents and students will be informed on any updates with Governor Lemanu and MG Hara's efforts to work through the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy eligibility requirements.

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